The Chronicle

Tuesday January 20, 2004

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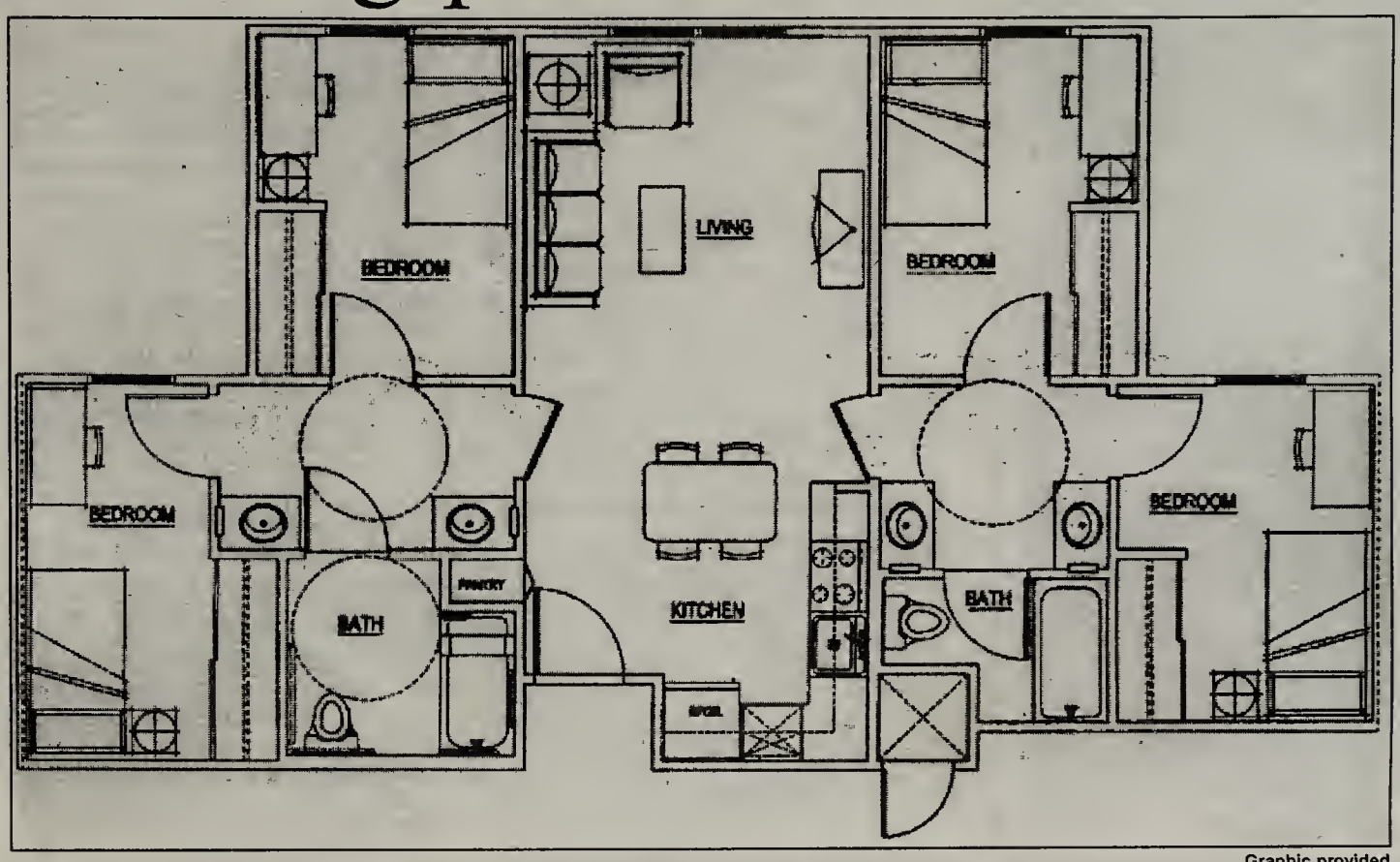
Housing plans move forward



Graphic provided

Floor plans for the new students community feature several amenities for student's convenience.

Apartment-style complexes join campus profile in 2005

KEVIN JAMES
Staff Writer

The first phase of PUC's $16.5 million student housing project is scheduled to begin in late March or early April and be finished by August 2005.

Gary Newsom, vice chancellor for administrative services, said public bids were opened for this project on Tuesday, Jan. 13. He said there were 11 bids that have been forwarded to the Board of Trustees and a decision should be made by Feb. 6.

This first phase will include the creation of one building of dorms expected to hold 384 students.

Pending the success of the first phase, a second phase will be built to accommodate an additional 384 students.

The building will be a four-story, apartment style complex and will be built on the south end of campus east of the PER building.

Each room has been planned to feature several amenities including a furnished bedroom with individual keypad access for privacy, two shared bathrooms, a dining room, a furnished living room that will be shared by four students and a fully-equipped kitchen with a stove, dishwasher and garbage disposal. Andrew Schmidt, biology major, said, "The new dorms sound like a good idea in principle, but we will see what happens once they are finished."

Michael Kull, assistant vice chancellor for business and facilities services, said the price of rent has not yet been determined. He said he is sure the dorms will offer a competitive price to area apartments.

"Financial aid to cover the cost of rent will be available to those students who are qualified," Kull said.

The university has also spent the past year raising $2 million in private gifts for this project. The rest of the cost will be secured through the sale of bonds and repaid through the use of student rents.

Kull said the new dorms are also going to offer employment opportunities to students. He said students will be able to apply to be student community assistants, if hired they would receive free housing and a stipend.

He said the new dorms will most likely attract more international students since they must have guaranteed housing in order to gain a student visa.

Kull said many people are going to gain from this added amount of diversity on campus.

He said, "This will change the image of PUC."

Newsom said, "This is part of PUC's growth vision. We are trying to provide students with quality and quantity, this is why we are going to offer students a residential opportunity."

Newsom also said research shows that student housing helps student retention and increases the graduation rates.

However, students such as Eric Sweetwater, psychology major, have different ideas about housing.

Sweetwater said, "I already live five minutes from campus with my parents so it makes no difference to me, but foreign students will be helped."

Contributed to by Kendra Japchinski

Organizations 'Welcome' new students

NICOLE MACKOWSKI
Managing Editor

The holiday break is over and students are filling the parking lots and returning to classes. Those who waited until classes started to purchase their books formed long lines inside the bookstore.

The SFLC concourse was also filled with faculty and students interested in finding out more information about student organizations on campus. This set up, with book sales and large numbers of students, was an ideal PUC Rush Week. The idea is to bring students and faculty together in order to learn more about what PUC has to offer.

Gloria Roldan-Schieb, associate director of student life and activities, said, "Welcome Week is an essential element for incoming students as well as returning students, because it enables these students to see all the student organizations that PUC has to offer in one centralized location."

Roldan-Schieb also said it allows students to find out more information about the organization in which they may be interested in joining.

Student organizations were given the opportunity to set up tables in the SFLC concourse throughout the week. Representatives from each of the organizations were present during the day to answer any questions that students may have had and also to better inform students of the activities their organizations have planned for the upcoming semester.

Students were also given handouts containing calendars and information about the individual organizations. Some organizations offered incentives to students in order to help them remember the organization's name at a later date.

Jennifer Dinell, vice president of the student programming board said SPB sponsored the showings of the movies "Pirates of the Caribbean" and "Barber Shop" in the TV room.

SPB also sponsored "Operation Night Cafe," which took place in the CLO

See Welcome Page 5

Deep cryogenics tempering improvements help industry

DAVE THOMPSON
Online Editor

The Calumet Chapter of American Society of Materials International, in cooperation with PUC's engineering department, held a technical meeting to discuss deep cryogenic tempering last Thursday night at the Center.

Considered one of metalworking's best-kept secrets, deep cryogenic tempering is the freezing of materials down to –300 degrees Fahrenheit.

While not a new technology, recent process improvements and the development of computer-controlled processors have made possible the development of technology that gives reliable, accurate and repeatable results that industry needs to improve tool and component performance.

Speakers for the meeting were, professor of mechanical engineering Harvey Abramowitz, and John R. Koucky, vice president of 300 BELOW Inc.

In the first part of the presentation, Koucky explained the process his company uses during cryogenic treatments.

The process includes freezing parts and tools down to –300 degrees Fahrenheit to improve wear properties. It is a "dry" process, meaning that the parts and tools getting the treatment are never in contact with liquid nitrogen.

It is also considered a "one-time" treatment, once a material is treated, the properties will remain for the life of the part.

Koucky also discussed items that his company has treated with cryogenics. Some of the items Koucky and 300 BELOW Inc. have treated with cryogenics include knives, capacitors and resistors, gun barrels, materials used in motor sports competitions, aluminum bats, golf clubs and golf balls.

Koucky said that treating an aluminum bat helps improve the non-denting qualities of the bat.

Other items that 300 BELOW Inc. have treated include materials that have been launched into outer space and musical instruments, primarily brass instruments. However, wooden clarinets have also been given a cryogenic treatment.

"Anything that flies in outer space has to be treated to those temperatures," Koucky said.

In the second half of the program, Abramowitz discussed some of the students at PUC who have worked with him researching cryogenics.

Abramowitz also said there were three important variables that influence the success or failure of the

See Cryogenics Page 5

SPORTS: Lakers victorious over Barat! ENTERTAINMENT: Ronnie Baker Brooks, Big Fish and More!

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

For an 'udderly' good time, check out what's in the library and enter PUC's

MOO DONE IT Contest

OK, we're week 2 into the Spring Semester. Your mind is a blur of all those pending semester projects and assignments. Winter has its biting grip on us, and you've already glanced at the calendar to determine when Spring Break begins.

How about a diversion?

Well, we've got one for you.

Stop by the library and you'll see it.

Well, not exactly—it's covered up.

What's covered up?

You tell us by participating in Purdue Calumet's first (and, possibly, last) "Moo Done It" Contest.

All you have to do is...

Entry forms are in the library and at the Information Center in SFLC, as well as the Grab 'n' Go in CLO and the Fitness Center in the PER Building. (Just look for the "Moo Done It" entry form box—you can't miss it.) You also can enter on line at the Purdue Calumet web site:

www.calumet.purdue.edu/moodneit/

The contest is open to students, faculty, staff, alumni, local *residents and not-so-local residents.*

Starting this week, less-than-mind-boggling clues are being revealed at the above locations, our web site and in this column over the next couple of weeks.

Enter the contest as many times as you desire. All you have to do is answer the following questions:

1. What's under the veil in the library in SFLC? and
2. In one sentence or less, explain how what's under the veil relates to Purdue University Calumet's "Plan for Success."

The entry deadline is Feb. 5.

Hey, we're having some fun now!

We're looking for the most thoughtful, creative, heart-warming, hilarious and/or otherwise mind-boggling responses. Based on a stringent review and evaluation system by a committee of hardly qualified judges, winners will be determined and announced at a "Moo Done It" unveiling reception, Thursday, Feb. 12, from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in the library—which, of course, you're all invited to attend. Contest winners also will receive a prize of uncertain value.

So all you Sherlock Holmes' types who love a good mystery—or, for that matter, even a not so good mystery—keep watching for those clues at the aforementioned locations and plan to milk this contest for all it's worth!

Here's Clue No. 1...

...As Harry used to say, "Holy ____!"

Now that ought to get some noggins percolating.

The Administrative Update is a paid advertisement.

What's Goin' On?

A look around campus

Faculty senate seeks input on academic calendar

The University Faculty Senate will be reviewing the calendar this year and is considering adding a fall break. The senate currently seeks input on the topic from students of all majors. Interested students should contact Susan Conners, associate professor of information systems and computer programming, at 989-2918.

Student Government Association seeks senators

The SGA seeks committed students to help represent the student body. Now is the time to be involved in change. Interested students should call 989-2394, or can email Ricardo Garcia at sga_president0304@yahoo.com.

The SGA also wants to hear from the student body about what issues are important to them. Students who have concerns they would like to have addressed should also contact the organization.

Cultural drama focuses on love and relationships

"A Chinese Celebration, "Cathay Visions (The Empty Cage)," directed by J. Allen Johnson, is taking place Saturday Jan. 31 at the Alumni Hall in SFLC. The Chancellor is holding a reception at 2:30 p.m. and the performance starts at 3:30 p.m. Admission is free. For more information call 989-2212 or visit www.calumet.purdue.edu.

Student Programming Board *seeks members for planning*

The SPB is seeking members who are able to attend biweekly Friday meetings at 10 a.m., willing to bring campus activity ideas to the table and help in the planning and implementing of those ideas. Those interested should contact Jennifer Dinell at vpofprogramming@yahoo.com.

Writing Center to hold workshop on Microsoft Word

The Writing Center presents an interactive workshop "Microsoft Word 101" on Monday, Jan. 26 and Tuesday, Jan. 27 at 6:45 p.m. in the Writing Center computer lab—CLO 263. The workshop will cover the basics of Microsoft Word XP. The workshop is free and open to all students. Students may sign up in advance at the Writing Center at CLO 265 or calling 989-2200.

Management organization seeks new members

Society for Human Resource Management is looking for new members. This organization participates in many activities including charity events, resume workshops, job and internship opportunities and has guest speakers from the Human Resource field at each meeting. The first meeting of the semester will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 20 at 5:15 p.m. in ANDR 311 with meetings held every other Tuesday thereafter. For more information email us at pucshrmpres@yahoo.com.

Student organizations: It's homecoming time!

The Student Programming Board is presenting homecoming 2004. Each recognized active PUC organization will have a chance to participate by nominating members within the organization to run for the 2004 homecoming king/queen. Student organizations can nominate one king and/or queen by getting an entry form in The Center for Career and Leadership Development office in SFLC 349. The forms are due no later than Monday, Feb. 2. Completed forms should be submitted to SFLC 349. For more information contact Jennifer Dinell at vpofprogramming@yahoo.com.

Submitting Briefs

Anyone interested in publicizing events, clubs, organizations or departments in "What's Goin' On?" must submit briefs the Monday before publication. The Chronicle is published on Mondays. The Chronicle does not guarantee placement of briefs submitted.

Please limit briefs to four sentences and include the first and last name of the contact person.

Briefs may be submitted via e-mail at: chroncle@calumet.purdue.edu or campus cc:mail - chronicle or to the News Department located in the Student Faculty Library Center, Room 344-H.

The Chronicle

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Radio and television student, honored scriptwriter, graduates

KENDRA JAPCHINSKI
News Editor

While most recent graduates are just beginning to plan their futures, Eric Sera, 23, has already co-authored a documentary and two award-winning scripts.

Sera graduated in the fall of 2003 with a bachelor's degree in communication with an emphasis in radio and television. Last spring Sera received the Outstanding Undergraduate Radio-TV Senior Award from the department of communication and creative arts.

On Tuesday, Dec. 16 Sera presented the "student response" at PUC's commencement exercises at the Radisson Star Plaza Theatre in Merrillville. During his speech he thanked U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh for creating and implementing the 21st Century Scholars Program while he was governor.

Sera said he wouldn't have been able to afford school if it wasn't for the program. He ended his speech on a lighter note quoting the 1970's show "Happy Days" character Arthur Fonzarelli.

"School is cool-a-mundo," Sera said.

While attending PUC Sera and Peter Aranda, PUC graduate, wrote and produced the documentary, "Chantilly Lace: The True Story of J.P. Richardson." Richardson is best known as the "Big Bopper." In 1959 he died in a plane crash along with Buddy Holly and Ritchie Valens. This was the first documentary made about Richardson's life.

After working on the film two years with a PUC production crew, Sera traveled to Richardson's hometown in Port Arthur, Texas for the film's debut on Richardson's birthday, Oct. 24.

"Everyone in Texas treated us like celebrities, they asked us for our autographs," Sera said.

While in Texas, Sera and the rest of the crew received feedback on the film and made some changes. Sera said the film will be shown at PUC sometime in February.

Sera and Aranda also wrote two scripts that won national awards from the Broadcasters Education Association. In 2002 they wrote "Buffy the Vampire Slayer: Soul Taker" and in 2003 they wrote "The Simpsons: RoBart Wars." Both scripts received third place in the student television scriptwriting category. "RoBart Wars" received an additional Communicator Award of Distinction.

Sera said he and Aranda wrote scripts for two shows that were already on the air, but he also likes to be creative.

"I think it's easier to write a screenplay than it is to write a script because then I have control over the characters," Sera said.

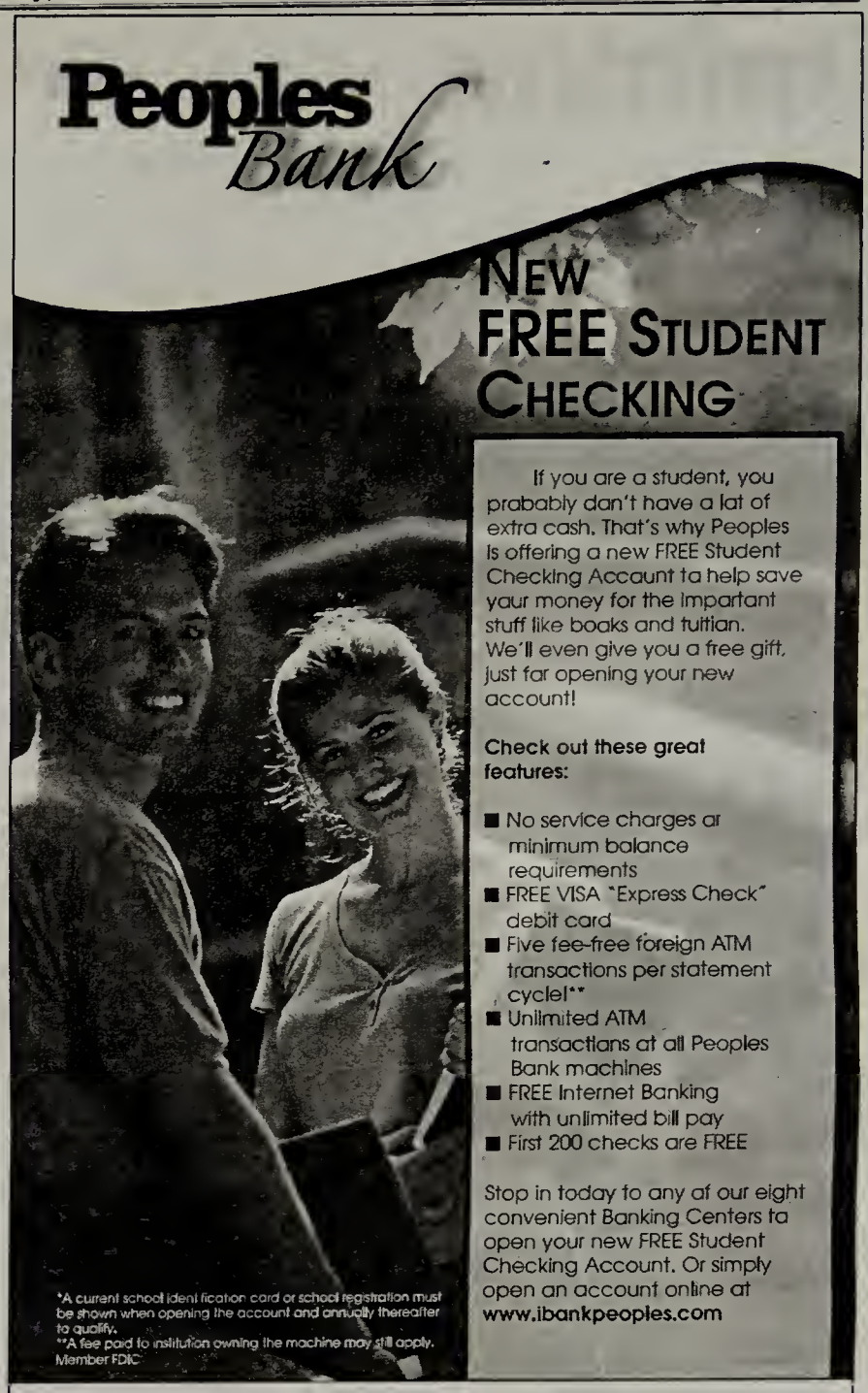
He helped Corya Channing, continuing visiting instructor of communication; write plays for her acting classes in which he was enrolled.

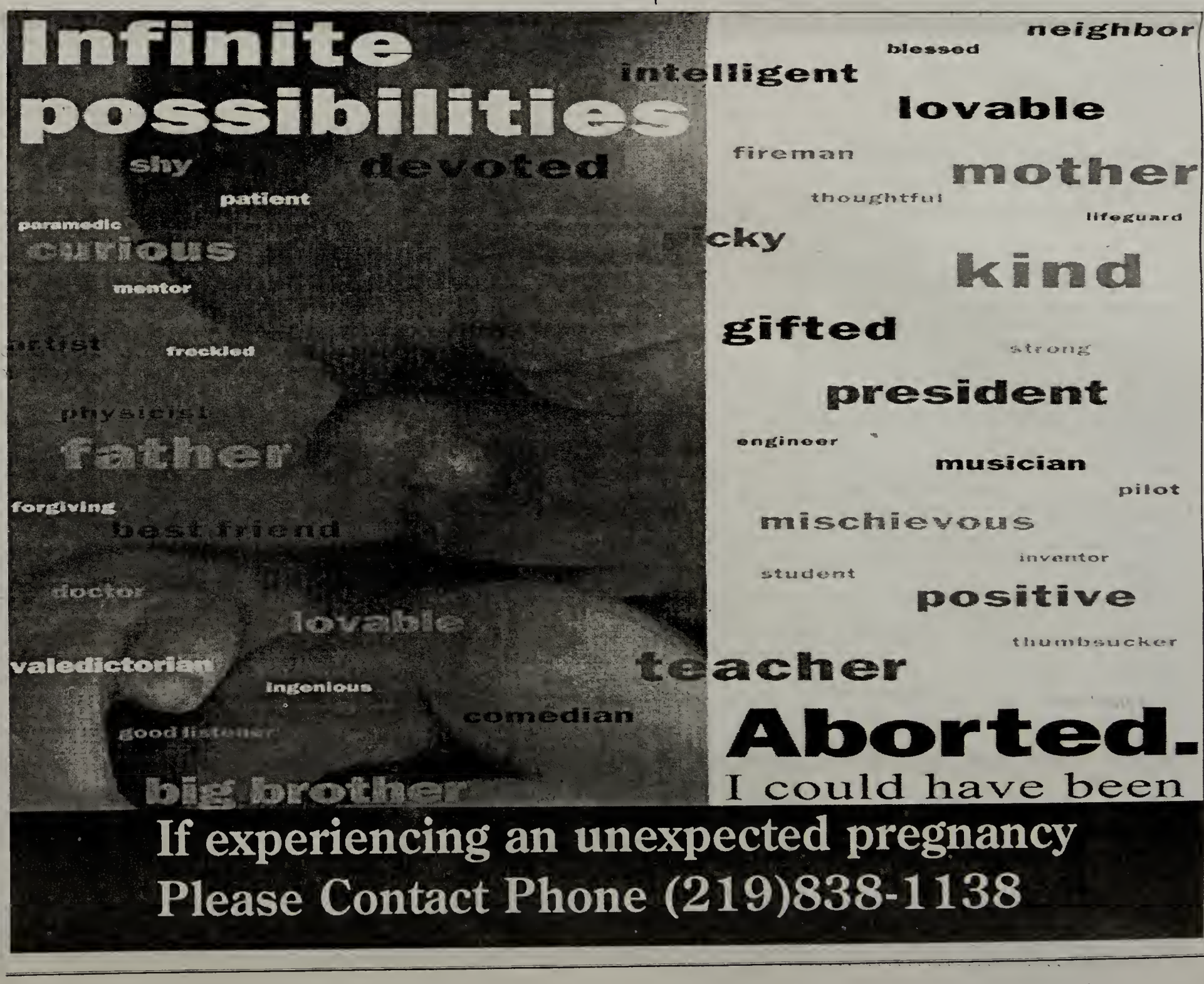
He wrote "Lincoln Highway Revisited," which was performed at the Buckley Homestead and he wrote screenplays for two of Ronald Dahl's books, "Esio Trot" and "Skin." "Esio Trott" was a children's play, which was performed at PUC's Riley Child Center and "Skin" was an adult play performed at Hammond's Towle Theatre.

Sera and Aranda just recently submitted their last script as students to the Broadcaster's Education Association. They submitted a script written for the George Lopez Show, called "Quit Bugging."

Sera said now that he has graduated he hopes to eventually relocate to Los Angeles to be a screenwriter for a movie or a staff writer for a television show. He is currently working on a documentary about a local band called "Flying Aarons."

Mary Beth O'Connor, associate professor of communication said, "Eric really wants to be in the business, he's determined and he's ready to put the necessary work in."





Opinion

The Chronicle
Editorial Board
Spring 2004
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Keep the commuting student's needs in sight

As the ground breaking for the new dorms approaches, the students at PUC are going have to start thinking about how these dorms are going to affect them, in both positive and negative ways. Change is coming, and will be here soon. The old days of PUC are going to be a memory of alumnus, faculty and current students.

On one hand, the building of dorms means that current, as well as potential students, will be able to find a safe and affordable place to live. The addition of the parking garage also provides an answer to the never ending problem with parking on campus. With the dorms, student involvement will increase in student activities and student employment, and the possibility of more things pro-student will exist.

On the other hand, the university must also undertake initiatives to make commuting students feel they are still a part of the campus community. One solution for making commuting students feel more at home while at PUC is to provide somewhere for them to go. An improved student center or campus lounge of some sort would be the perfect piece of the puzzle to keep the entire campus community thriving. The university has a high number of students that come to campus for their classes and then go home.

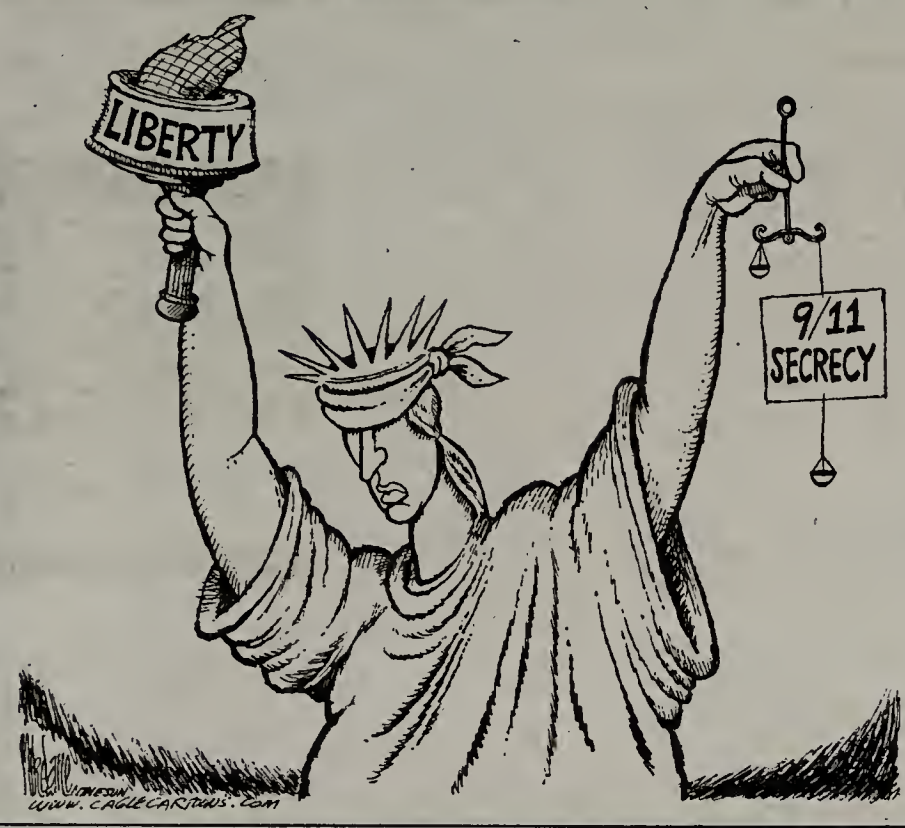
The university administration cannot forget about the already established PUC student and what their needs are. It will be easy to accommodate those living on campus, and the challenge of involving and including the commuting student will still exist. The university may need to *reach a little bit further for the opinions and needs of the commuting students, but the commuting students will still* represent the majority of our student body and can not be forgotten because others may be easier to find. The majority of PUC students can be found working in our community and at home studying for tests, not in dorms living it up.

PUC students are not traditional, with their average age being 26. Many PUC students are already part of the "real world" working full time while attending classes and balancing their families, homes and school. With the addition of housing on campus the climate and culture of the campus will change.

Currently, it is very difficult to get into upper level classes within some disciplines on campus. With enrollment increases that will come with the dorms, there needs to be increased classes within the disciplines to accommodate all the students. Not only will there need to be more classes, there will need to be more academic advisers to guide the students who are finding themselves at a school that is growing and expanding before their eyes. In five years, this university will be very different, and many students will see these changes occurring all around them. That could be overwhelming for some, and some may need more guidance than others in the past.

Before construction starts, there are important issues that need to be addressed. The university needs to increase the upper level courses offered, increase the frequency of classes offered, keep the Oaken Arbor Café open later, keep the library and main computer lab open later and sponsor more campus wide activities with substance, such as forums.

In a school as diverse as PUC, the administration must not overlook the needs of two very different groups of students; those living on campus and those who commute.



Letters to the editor

I wish to begin by stating that I can relate, without doubt, 100 percent with the nameless passenger on your Managing Editor's recent flight back to Chicago. We are currently living our lives in America under a masked form of tyranny.

Only when one lives in a society that so freely accepts the notion that citizens must be tracked, traced and surveyed when traveling, banking or engaging in commerce do we fully realize how much of our freedom is truly gone. No one, including the Federal government, law enforcement, a mall clerk or flight crew will force me to give up my personal right to liberty and privacy. The media and our leaders have our country so gripped with a fear of the unknown that they will gladly hand over their precious civil liberties, for a feeling of pseudo-safety. I believe we need to question our leaders and our authorities because that is *what America was founded upon.*

Primarily, however, I want to explain that giving a man on an airplane, let's call him Loudmouth, a "Federal Offense" on his record does not make us any safer; all Loudmouth wanted was some attention, and they gave him lots of it, it's just plain ignorant. When the crew decided to taxi the plane back to the runway to hand the citizen over to the authorities (sounds kind of Soviet, doesn't it?), the man succeeded in his plans to disrupt the flight. He won, and everyone else lost. If I were that pilot, I would have locked the cabin door and been flying at 20,000 feet by the time Loudmouth realized what had happened. Then he would have had to sit down and shut up, he would be powerless. On the other hand, I too would be upset as well if I were under the impression that my luggage was not on the airplane, and I would have told the authorities the same thing. My personal property is exactly that, mine. And if I don't believe that someone with whom I have entrusted it to is doing a good job of handling it, it is my First Amendment right to free speech to voice that belief. The flight crew violated this man's civil rights, and should be tried in court of violating the First and Fourth Amendments to the constitution (if you don't know them, look them up).

This man had already satisfied the Gestapo inside the airport, and then he had to deal with a stewardess on a power trip! He had every right in the world to be upset, especially since airport security is a laughingstock and also ineffective (according to a recent MIT study), and the fact that you are treated like a common criminal just for being near an airport.

We need to stop being boot-lickers to the police and military and remind them that our taxes pay their paychecks; that they work FOR us not AGAINST us. Terrorists don't scare me, being slave to an oppressive government, however, does. And before anyone has the chance to say it, I know I am lucky to even be able to write this. What aspects about this country do you wish to preserve for your children? As Americans we can answer together, our freedom.

Respectfully,

Jonah Fields
Sophomore, CIS major

I am an alumnus of Purdue University Calumet, and I am saddened as I just found out yesterday about the loss of Yjean Chambers. I was the last class she ever taught at Purdue. I believe it was around 2000. I was taking her voice and diction class, so you can say that YJean taught me how to talk. To this day, I still use the information YJean taught me. People all around me notice that I talk differently and have done so since taking YJean's course a few years ago. I'm sure there are many other students that have taken part of YJean's lessons with them after they left Purdue.

Matt Cooper

May 2002 Graduate
Radio/TV Major

The article stated that SGA executive board members were asked to prove they are worthy of their stipends. I don't think this is asking much. When you have a job you are expected to be productive in order to receive pay. All that has been asked of SGA is to show their work.

SGA President Ricardo Garcia said SGA has done all they could and they have been effective. He thinks it is unfair to be asked to prove SGA's effectiveness. If SGA has been effective and has done all they could, why does Garcia think it is unfair to prove that? If what he says is true, Garcia should be proud of SGA and willing to show the work they have done. Unless he knows the truth: not everything possible was done and SGA really has not been effective.

Garcia holds responsible the student body to determine SGA's effectiveness. Give me a forum and I will say that SGA has not been effective! I can't even get a reply to an email I sent Garcia on Dec. 15, 2003 at sga_president0304@yahoo.com in regards to a concern I have. This is the email address he provided in the article, encouraging students with concerns to send an email. When I send an email, I expect a timely response, especially if it is from someone who represents me and my interests.

The article stated that Garcia said there are no standards for SGA to be compared to because the organization is being run differently than by past members. So because in past years the SGA got away with shoddy leadership, Garcia expects that he too can coast and not have to work? I want an SGA that exemplifies leadership and dedication, not one whose head officer thinks its okay to do just enough to get by. What about going above and beyond the call and raising the bar? Does SGA aspire to be average? I don't want average representation!

SGA has some valuable people who are suffering from lackadaisical leadership. If Garcia has taken on too much, he needs to be an adult and admit it. If he cares for the well being of SGA and students, he needs to step down and allow someone else to represent students the way we deserve to be represented. I want my SGA and I want it now! I am tired of self-serving students posing as leaders so they can have something to put on their resume.

Sincerely yours,
Tiffany Amber Sanchez
Graduate Student in Communication

The Chronicle Editorial Policy

The views expressed in the commentaries and Letters to the Editor do not necessarily reflect the views of *The Chronicle* or Purdue University Calumet. *The Chronicle* is not an official publication of Purdue University Calumet.

The Chronicle welcomes reader input. Letters and commentaries must include the author's name, class standing or other affiliation and a telephone number for verification. The more concise the letter, the better the chances of publication.

All materials submitted to *The Chronicle* become the property of *The Chronicle*. *The Chronicle* reserves the right to edit for clarity, accuracy, space and news style. Copy deadline is noon the Monday before publication.

Volume 22 Issue 17

Write the editorial staff at:
chroncle@calumet.purdue.edu
Please limit your letter to 400 words to ensure it will be printed in its entirety.

Welcome

continued from Page 1

Concourse. This was an opportunity to provide coffee, hot chocolate and tea to students who were on campus at night.

Dinell added that SPB also sponsored a raffle during Welcome Week, in which students won various prizes. The prizes included a backpack stuffed with school supplies, Purdue t-shirts and Purdue pens.

"In giving prizes away, winners will remember what organization gave it to them. Students will remember us if they fill out the papers," Dinell said.

On Monday students had the opportunity to listen to a performance by Reggie Foster, a local jazz musician, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Oaken Arbor cafeteria. This event was sponsored by UPS.

During Welcome Week all organizations that set up tables in the SFLC concourse had the goal of recruiting students in mind.

Roldan-Schieb said, "Although the traditional school year starts in August, most organizations can use any chance they get to recruit new members."

This year January Welcome Week had a larger number of organizations involved than previous years, Roldan-Scheib said.

Michele Pesavento, vice president of the society for human resource management said, the society set up a table to recruit new students to become involved in the organization. Although the society is targeted toward human resource majors or those seeking a minor in human resources, other majors are welcome.

"We have established networking connections at various corporations in the area," Pesavento said.

The society also sponsors guest speakers from the human resources field, and seeks out job and internship opportunities for its members, Pesavento said.

The student government association, which offers various opportunities on campus, was also seeking new members, Margaret DeDios, executive secretary said.

"Our members are the voice of the student body and it is our responsibility to get involved on campus and get things done," DeDios said.

Students who are interested in becoming involved in campus life can access more information about student organizations by visiting the Career and Leadership Development Center located in SFLC- 349.

Cryogenics

continued from Page 1

cryogenic treatment process used on materials.

One of these variables is descent time, the time period it takes to cool the material down. Another variable is hold time, how long the material stays at a temperature near –300 degrees Fahrenheit. The final variable is ascent time, when the material is being brought back up to room temperature.

Raymond Jerome Bleth III, a sophomore in mechanical engineering, said that the wide variety of applications for cryogenics made the presentation interesting. He feels new applications of cryogenic treatments could still be realized and discovered in such fields as the aerospace industry.

To learn more about cryogenics call mechanical engineering professor Harvey Abramowitz at (219) 989-2473.

Classifieds

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"I attend Purdue University Calumet. I'm working at UPS and I'm also able to get school paid for. It does make my education more valuable. I don't take it for granted. It's a gratifying job."

- Stacy Goddard

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The Purdue Alumni Association – Calumet and The Times invite you to attend the next presentation of the Platinum Speakers Series

Liquid Asset
The True Value of Water
Tuesday, February 3, 2004

We rely on water for our own survival, but how does it effect the Region's Economic Development?

Join us and hear from the area's largest water company, from a leading water consumer, and a research and historical perspective.

The Center at Purdue Calumet
6 p.m. Social Hour with Hors d'oeuvres
7 p.m. Presentation

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ROSS AMUNDSON
Manager of Government and Community Affairs

Pepsi-Cola
MIKE BOOKER
Process Control Manager

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Entertainment

'Big Fish' lures with tall tales

LINDA MERRICK
Page Designer

Big Fish is about a young man trying to find out the real story of his father's life. Throughout his entire life, Edward Bloom has told his son William (played by Billy Crudup) tall tales. William doesn't believe his father's stories are true and doesn't speak to his father for three years after he gets married, but when his father gets sick William goes back home to visit him. William's mother Sandra (played by Jessica Lange) tries to reunite them. William gets annoyed with his father but he is determined to find the truth about his life in order to write a story about it. Yet, Edward continues to tell his tall tales. His stories are about: a giant, his travels to exotic places, a witch, how he robbed a bank, his travels with a circus and much more.

Edward has always considered himself a big fish in a small pond on earth. So he tells his stories in order to appear this way to others. With his larger-than-life stories, Edward charms almost everyone he meets. He believes when someone tells a story many times they become that story, whether it's true or not.

Later in the film, William questions the reality of one of his father's stories. Edward's doctor asks William whether the boring truth or an extraordinary fiction is more interesting and more fascinating when told years later. William has to learn how to tell fact from fiction in his father's stories and realize that this is just who his father is, a storyteller.

Daniel Wallace originally wrote "Big Fish" as a novel in 1998.

Tim Burton, the director of "Edward Scissorhands," "Nightmare Before Christmas," "Batman" and "Beetlejuice," directed this movie. Who better, than someone who perfects fictional and fantasy stories to direct this movie, "Big Fish."

Burton does a great job of focusing on the underlying truths hidden within the myths and tall tales. The viewer still can tell what really happened and what is fiction. Burton tells the story of a boy's father through myth and tall tales and the product is a great film.

This film is about a father and son relationship beautifully put together with fiction for a more interesting storyline. Like its title implies, "Big Fish" is the exaggeration of what may or may not have been. This is definitely a movie that will hold one's attention all the way through. This movie has also been nominated for four Golden Globe Awards.

"Big Fish" is a movie for those who enjoy tales of family, myth and adventure, with a mystic flare.

Photo courtesy of yahoomovies.com

Edward, played by Ewan McGregor, tells his mythic tales about giants, witches, and his travels with the circus.

Movie Review
"Big Fish"
★★★★
out of
★★★★★

Ronnie Baker Brooks: A Hidden Gem

JORDAN HESTERMANN
Entertainment Editor

There is a hidden talent playing right here in Northwest Indiana. This talent is Ronnie Baker Brooks, son of blues legend Lonnie Brooks.

Ronnie Baker Brooks plays many Thursday nights at Bugsy's on Indianapolis Boulevard in Highland. Once in a while the bar is crowded, but on a typical Thursday night the bar lacks patrons, considering a famous blues guitarist is on stage.

Ronnie Brooks started his career as a blues artist at the age of nine playing on stage with his dad. As he got older he became a permanent fixture in his father's band. In 1998 he began his solo career; he has since released two solo albums, "Golddigger" and "Take Me Witcha."

He tours all over the country, and has played with bands like Aerosmith. One of the last times the Black Crowes came to the Tweeter Center in Tinley Park, Ill., Ronnie Brooks and his father joined them on stage for a song. However, it seems no matter how famous or busy he gets, he continues to return to Bugsy's to play for the Northwest Indiana crowd.

Ronnie Brooks plays a variety of songs ranging from his own original music to covers of Stevie Ray Vaughn and ZZ Top. Some of the songs are toe-tappers while others are for those who enjoy getting up and dancing fast. Yet others are slow love songs for sweethearts. Whether the song is fast or slow, whether it is his own original song or a cover; he only sings and plays the blues.

Ronnie Brooks plays with a lot of soul and is very focused when on stage, however he doesn't lose touch with his audience.

He is a very personable artist. Between sets he walks around the bar and greets the audience. He also remembers people that have come out to see him.

Many times during his performances he comes down from the stage in order to play a little closer to the audience. Once in a while he will even take a walk behind the bar and have a drink while playing the guitar behind his head.

Brooks has great showmanship and really entertains the crowd, but the real reason to see him is the music he plays.

While sitting and watching the show it is hard not to question why there are not more people in the audience. Maybe blues music is not for everyone, or maybe people just do not know what an amazing talent hides inside Bugsy's on Thursday nights. Whatever the reason, people are missing out on seeing a famous blues artist.

Brooks could be the answer next time you have the Thursday night stuck in Northwest Indiana blues.

Photo courtesy of www.ronniebakerbrooks.com

Ronnie Baker Brooks playing at Mt. Tremblant (Canada) on July 18, 2003.

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World Wrestling Entertainment album doesn't sing outside the ring

JOE JUAREZ
Distribution Manager

When the World Wrestling Entertainment releases a CD, it usually contains the entrance theme to a specific wrestler like "Stone-Cold" Steve Austin or Kurt Angle. For those who enjoy the music heard on television or at an arena event, it may be worth it to buy the CD. It describes their character, fan interaction and musical taste.

In the new album "Originals", the wrestlers maintain their ring character but instead of body slams, chairs hits and middle fingers, these wrestlers step in front of a microphone and sing about what's on their minds.

Whether it is in the field of rock, dance or rap each wrestler has a chance to test out their vocal talent.

The CD begins and ends with Austin trying to come up with his perfect song.

This provides some comic relief to the CD, hearing him complain to producer Jim Johnston about the lack of beer, lyrical changes and even disagreeing about the need to play an acoustic guitar.

What's really amusing is when Austin gets frustrated with Johnston, and it sounds like he's beating him up.

With the comic relief comes the musical portion of the cd. No, not by Austin, but by wrestlers like Kurt Angle. His song, "I Don't Suck (Really)" depicts him telling everyone to follow his or her own goals.

In another song, "Don't You Wish You Were Me," the self-proclaimed king of the world, Chris Jericho is letting the whole world know that there can only be one Chris Jericho. He says to "Keep dreaming, you'll never be me."

Finally, one of the better songs on the cd has to be John Cena's "Basic Thugonomics." "Basic Thugonomics" is Cena's representation of how a wrestler can come up with a great idea both in and out of the ring.

Originally his entrance theme, "Basic Thugonomics" starts off with Cena saying, "So you think you're untouchable.... I'm untouchable but I'm forcing you to feel me." Then he continues with, "Whether fighting or spinning, my discipline is unforgiving, got you backing up the defensive position..." On television he is respected, sometimes hated, but when it comes to his rapping, it is worth a listen.

Some songs on WWE Originals could be listened to for long periods of time such as "...Thugonomics." On the other hand, some fans might find it hard to sit and listen without changing to something different or completely shutting off the cd player.

The people who are singing are men and women who entertain fans who pay good money to see someone get beat up, lose a championship and hear offensive language, not sing.

If you are not a fan of wrestling, avoid this cd. If you are a fan, you may still not like it. You may want to think about whether or not you think your favorite wrestlers could sing or do comedy routines before you purchase this album.

CD Review
"Originals"
★★
out of
★★★★★

Photo courtesy of WWE.com

WWE stars sing on new CD, "Originals." Stars include Steve Austin, Chris Jericho and "I Don't Suck (Really), by Kurt Angle.

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Sports

Defense, rebounding guide Lakers to CCAC win over Barat Bulldogs

FRANK SPRANKLE
Sports Editor

Last year, the Lakers entered Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference play with a 10-7 record. However, they only went 6-8 in conference in route to finishing up the season at .500.

This year the Lakers entered conference play at 10-6, as new players Robert Hoskins and Tyran Jackson shined in their first CCAC game last Wednesday night in the PER Building.

Hosting the Barat Bulldogs, the Lakers used a 13-0 first half run to build their lead in route to an 85-66 win. During this victory, the Lakers pulled down 53 total rebounds, 32 on defense and 21 on offense.

In his fourth game back from academic ineligibility, junior center Marquice Woods scored 24 points for the second consecutive game. In the Lakers eight-point loss over Lindsey Wilson on Jan. 10, Woods finished with 10 rebounds.

Against Barat, Woods had 19 rebounds, seven of which were on the offensive end.

"I was ready to come back. It was tough to watch my team play while I was sitting out," Woods said.

During his absence, Woods participated in daily practices and conditioning, while the coaching staff and his family helped him focus on what needed to be done to return to academic eligibility.

The Lakers also played well on defense, as they had 15 steals and five blocked shots in the game. Junior point guard Robert Hoskins scored 18 points and had eight rebounds in his first CCAC game played.

"As long as we play good defense and hit the boards, we can beat anyone," Hoskins said.

Senior guard Jay Noble, who scored 16 points and had eight steals, concurred with the need for the Lakers to step it up on defense.

"The focus right now is our defense, because we were not as deep as we were in during the fall semester," Noble said.

In his first CCAC action, Tyran Jackson had 15 points and three steals.

"Tyran came in and made a few nice penetrations for us," head coach Gary Hayes said.

On the losing side, Antwan Collins led in scoring for Barat with 18 points, while junior shooing guard Curtis Andrews scored 10 points for the Bulldogs in a starting role.

Barat also found some help off the bench from senior guard John Foster who scored 11 points. Justin Barnal also scored in double figures off the bench, as he converted on 3 of 5 from 3-point range as he scored 10 points.

With the victory, PUC advances its record to 11-6, and 1-0 in the CCAC. *Barat fell to 4-12 and 0-1 in the CCAC.*

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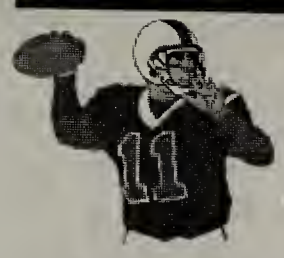
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Saturday Jan. 31 vs. St. Francis
Tip-Off: 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday Feb. 3 vs. Illinois Tech
Tip-Off: 7:00 p.m.